



2005 Farm Bill Programs Activity in the
Gunnison-Dolores Rivers Watershed

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. It provides matching funds to state, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

FY 2005 FRPP Activities				
County	Type	# of Contracts	Acres	Federal Share
Gunnison	Ranch	1	103.6	\$203,956
Total		1	103.6	\$203,956



The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. It provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

FY 2005 EQIP Contract Funding in the Gunnison-Dolores Rivers Watershed			
Natural Resource Concerns	Applications Received	Applications Contracted	\$ Amount Approved
Water Quality/Quantity	27	12	\$503,296
Grassland	7	4	\$29,250
Wildlife	3	0	\$0
Riparian	2	0	\$0
Salinity - Montrose	109	59	\$2,186,289
Salinity - Delta	80	42	\$1,932,324
Salinity - Wildlife	31	7	\$76,093
CNMP	1	0	\$0
Total	260	124	\$4,727,252

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), a voluntary program, offers landowners technical and financial support to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

FY 2005 WRP Statewide Activities

Number of Applications Received22
Number of Applications Contracted10
Dollar Amount Approved. \$3,090,800
Acres Under Contract. 2,315
Statewide, another ten applications totaling \$4,483,489 are on the waiting list to fund 3,141 acres of easements.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

FY 2005 WHIP Activities

Number of Applications Received2
Number of Applications Contracted2
Dollar Amount Approved. \$70,038
Acres Under Contract. 369

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), a voluntary program, helps landowners restore and protect grasslands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. It emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland under the greatest threat of conversion.

FY 2005
GRP Statewide Activity

Applications Received206
Applications Contracted6
Dollars Approved \$2,588,372
Acres Under Contract 13,679

Gunnison-Dolores Rivers Watershed



Photos by NRCS Colorado Staff

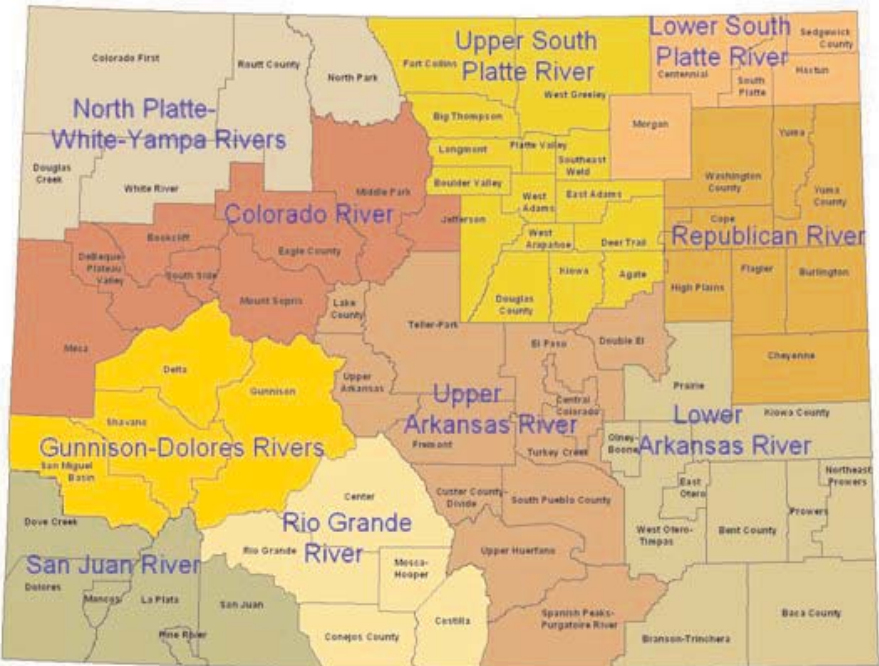


Watershed Profile

The Gunnison-Dolores Rivers Watershed totals 6,014,600 acres and includes all or portions of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, Saguache, and San Miguel Counties. NRCS natural resource specialists are staffed at the Delta, Gunnison, and Montrose USDA Field Service Centers to provide technical assistance, as well as incentive and cost-share program information to watershed residents.

NRCS Colorado looks to each watershed to identify its particular local resource needs and priorities. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) provides leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level. In the Gunnison-Dolores Rivers Watershed, four Conservation Districts organized a locally-led watershed work group which identified its major resource concerns as water quality and quantity, land use management, and conservation education. Ultimately, the work group will set goals, identify programs and other sources to address its natural resource concerns, develop proposals and recommendations, implement solutions, and measure success.

Colorado Watershed Associations and
Conservation Districts



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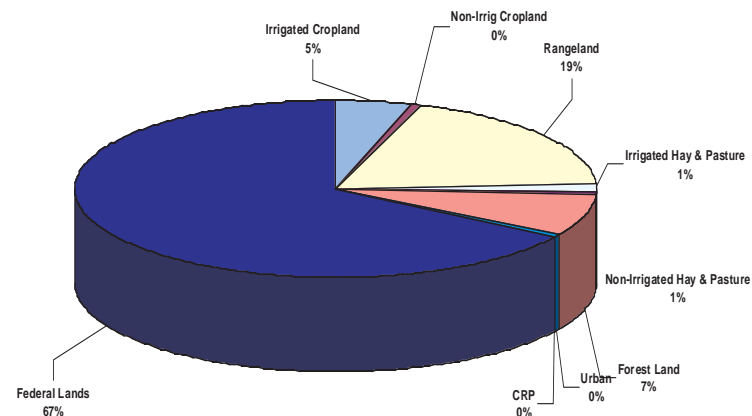
High Priority Resource Concerns

as identified by a locally-led Watershed Work Group

Water Quality Water Quantity Land Use Management Conservation Education

Land Use

Gunnison-Dolores Watershed Land Use 2004*



* Acreages are a compilation of data from the USDA-NASS Ag Census; USDA-NRCS Natural Resources Inventory; USDI-USGS National Land Cover Dataset; State of Colorado-DNR Colorado Decision Support Systems.



6,014,600

Acres

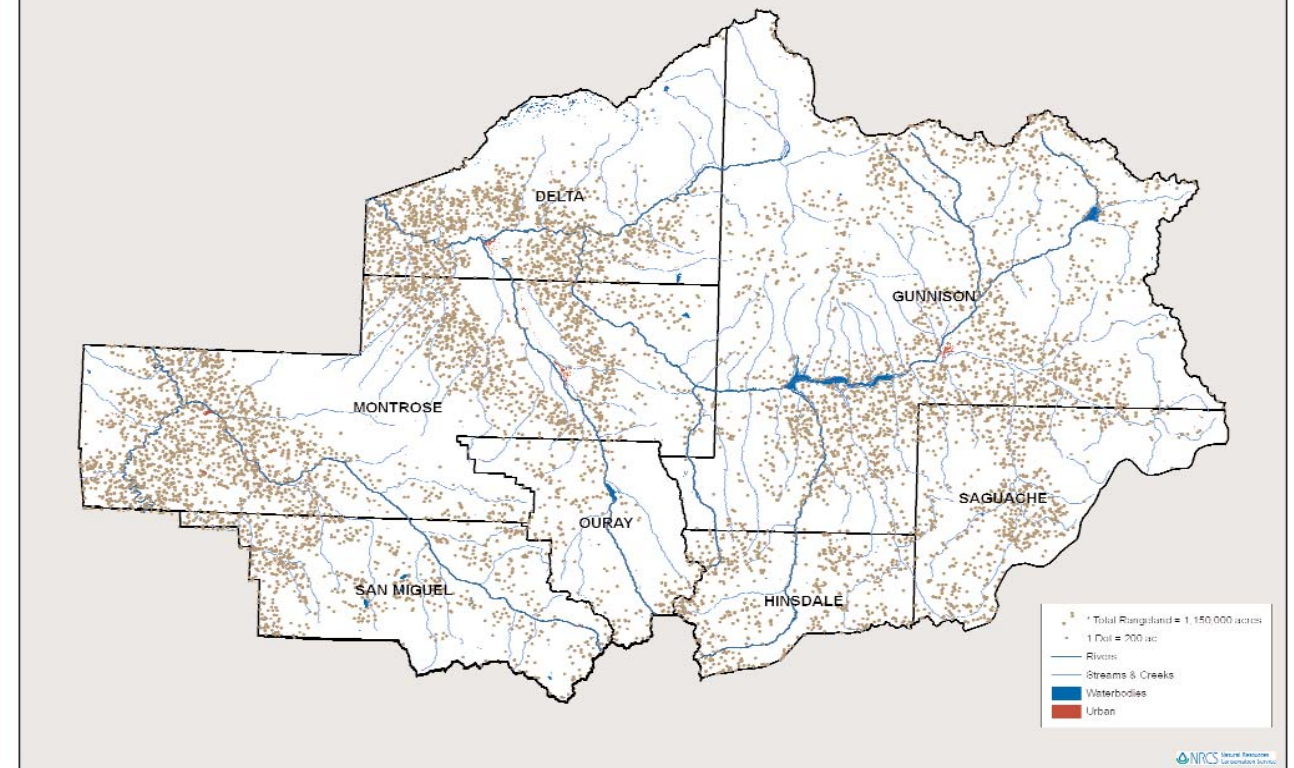
Irrigated Cropland	290,000
Non-Irrigated Cropland	20,000
Rangeland	1,150,000
Irrigated Hay & Pasture	72,800
Non-Irrigated Hay & Pasture	43,000
Forestland	450,000
Urban	27,000
CRP	3,450
Federal Lands	3,958,350

Gunnison-Dolores Watershed - Cropland



NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Gunnison-Dolores Rivers Watershed - Rangeland



NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Gunnison-Dolores Watershed - Average Annual Rainfall

